

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A power semiconductor module comprising a plurality of semiconductor components situated on substrate regions, wherein
  - each substrate region has a top surface and side faces, wherein side faces of two adjacent substrate regions face each other; and
  - between each two adjacent substrate regions a connecting element is arranged such that the connecting element ~~is adjoining~~ rests on the side faces of the two adjacent substrates, wherein said connecting elements are designed to prevent a deformation of one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.
2. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 1, wherein
  - the connecting elements are formed by recesses in a module housing enclosing said substrate regions.
3. (Original) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 2, wherein
  - the material recesses are slotted.
4. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 1, wherein
  - the substrate regions are ceramic.
5. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 2, wherein
  - the substrate regions are ceramic.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 2, wherein
  - the module housing, at least in the regions of the substrate regions, is such that it acts on the substrate regions with a spring force.
9. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 3, wherein
  - the module housing, at least in the regions of the substrate regions, is such that it acts on the substrate regions with a spring force.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Original) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 5, wherein
  - the housing, at least in the regions of the substrate regions, is such that it acts on the substrate regions with a spring force.
12. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 2, wherein
  - the module housing, at least in the regions of the substrate regions, is such that it acts on the substrate regions with a spring force.
13. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 1, wherein
  - the power semiconductor module has a housing, which, in an area between the substrate regions, has action points for a mechanical pressure application of the connecting elements, and
  - the housing applies pressure to the individual substrate regions.

14. (Currently Amended) A power semiconductor module comprising

- a plurality of substrate elements having top and bottom surface and side walls, each substrate element comprising a semiconductor component arranged on the top surface of a substrate element;
- one or a plurality of connecting elements ~~adjoining~~ resting on opposing side walls of two adjacent substrate elements, wherein said connecting elements are designed to prevent a deformation of one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.

15. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a module housing enclosing said plurality of substrate elements.

16. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 15, wherein

- the connecting elements are formed by recesses in the module housing.

17. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 16, wherein

- the material recesses are slotted.

18. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 14, wherein

- the substrate is a ceramic.

19. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 15,

wherein

- the module housing, at least in the regions of the substrate elements, is such that it acts on the substrate elements with a spring force.

20. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 14, further

comprising

- a heat sink having a flat surface, wherein a bottom surface of the plurality of substrate elements and said plurality of connecting regions are arranged on said flat surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 15,

wherein

- the module housing in a region between the substrate elements comprises action points for a mechanical pressure application of the connecting elements, and
- the housing applies pressure to the individual substrate elements.

22. (Previously Presented) The power semiconductor module as claimed in claim 1, further

comprising

- a heat sink having a flat surface, wherein the bottom surface of the plurality of substrate elements and said plurality of connecting elements are arranged on said flat surface.

23. (Currently Amended) A power semiconductor module comprising:

- a heat sink having a flat surface,

- a plurality of substrates arranged on the flat surface of the heat sink;
- a plurality of semiconductor components arranged on the substrates,
- one or a plurality of connecting regions in direct contact with adjacent substrates and  
arranged directly on the flat surface of the heat sink between adjacent substrate  
regions, wherein the connecting regions are designed to prevent a deformation of  
one substrate region to continue to an adjacent substrate region.